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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 8, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 13 : EXPANSION OF SENIOR TAXI SERVICE PROGRAM (COUNCILWOMAN PEPPER'S REQUEST)

This memorandum is in response to Councilwoman Pepper's request for information on the cost of expanding the Senior Taxi Service Program (Attachment 1) as proposed by Senior Services of Alexandria. The cost of the proposal is estimated at \$30,000 to \$33,125 depending on the option selected.

The Senior Taxi Service Program, managed by Senior Services of Alexandria, provides transportation services via taxi for medical, senior recreation, and grocery visits within the City limits. The program is provided to City of Alexandria residents, age 60 or older, and has no income restriction for participation. Transportation services for this program are provided through a contract with Diamond Cab. For Fiscal Year 2001, the Senior Taxi Service Program provided a total of 12,515 one-way trips at a cost of \$120,000. The cost per one-way trip in FY 2001 was \$9.60. Currently, riders pay \$1.50 per trip to the driver as a stipend. The \$1.50 stipend is not counted as offsetting revenue to the program. This service program receives its funding from the City through monthly usage reports from the contractor to the Office of Aging and Adult Services. The program is very popular with the 700 senior citizen users and has received very few timeliness or driver complaints.

Senior Services of Alexandria has submitted a proposal to expand the current Senior Taxi Service to either a five or ten mile radius outside of City limits. The expanded trips would be made available for medically-related appointments only. For the five-mile program, riders would pay \$2.50 each way for medical destinations up to five miles beyond the City limits. This is projected to generate an additional 1,875 one-way trips at a cost of \$16.00 per trip for a total cost of \$30,000. For the proposed ten mile program, medically-related trips can be made only to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Washington Medical Center. This program, if funded, is projected to generate an additional 125 one-way trips and is expected to cost \$25.00 per trip for a cost of \$3,125. Riders would be expected to pay \$3.00 each way. The ten mile

proposal would also include the ability to travel within five miles of the City limits, which is previously noted to generate 1,875 trips at a cost of \$30,000. Total cost of implementing the ten-mile proposal would be \$33,125 and may add a total of 2,000 (125 ten-mile + 1,875 five-mile) trips per year. The \$2.50 or \$3.00 stipend paid to the driver would not be considered offsetting revenue for the program.

The medically-related five and ten-mile proposals will not be available to elderly citizens whose medical destinations are beyond these limits. The limited proposed expansion of the Senior Taxi Service beyond the City limits is likely to create new and larger demands for transportation services and the necessary increased budget funds to support them. Medicaid funds are not available to help offset any of these increases in service. The DOT Paratransit program, which also provides medically-related transportation, is available only for disabled persons whose needs cannot be met by mainstream public transportation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1- Proposed increase to Senior Taxi Service to allow for trips outside the City limits of Alexandria for medical related appointments only

STAFF:

Susan Dawson, Executive Director, Senior Services of Alexandria, Inc.
 Gene Swearingen, Director, Office of Management and Budget
 Carol Moore, Acting Deputy Director of Management and Budget
 Stott Mason, Budget/Management Analyst

Attachment 1 113

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**Proposed increase to Senior Taxi Service to allow for trips outside
the city limits of Alexandria for medical related appointments only**

1 Present Program Based on FY 2000-2001 numbers

<u>One Way Trips</u>	<u>City subsidy</u>	<u>Program Costs</u>
12,500 rides	\$9.60 a trip	\$120,000

2 Increase to 5 mile radius from City limits Rider pays **\$2.50** each way for outside city limit trips

One Way trips inside city	12,500 x \$10.00	\$125,000
One Way trips outside City		
(15% increase)	1,875 x \$16 a trip	<u>\$30,000</u>
<u>in trips</u>	Estimated Cost:	<u>\$155,000</u>

3 Increase to 10 miles radius from City limits Rider pays **\$3.00** each way
Would allow access to Walter Reed and Washington Medical Centers only

One Way trips inside city:	\$12,500 x \$10.00	\$125,000
One Way trips outside City:		
15% at 5 miles	1,875 x \$16 a trip	\$30,000
1% at 10 miles	125 x \$25	<u>\$3,125</u>
	Estimated Cost:	<u>\$158,125</u>